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1880-1909. The usefulness of the publication has been increased by including a list of the officials and the departments in each city from which information was secured. There is published, in addition, a valuable list of statistical publications of many of the cities from which the facts on vital statistics, as well as other statistical information, may be secured in detail.

The statistical data, 1880-1909, are classified in four tables as follows:

(1) Growth of population. This table states the annual population, the absolute numbers of births, deaths, and marriages, and the rates per 1,000 population. It states also the excess of births over deaths. In using this table for comparative purposes it is necessary to take note of the fact that no correction has been made for differences in age grouping in the various cities. In comparing different periods for the same city this will not be a serious source of error.

(2) Births according to legitimacy and sex. The table distinguishes between live-births, stillbirths, and total births, and computes the proportion of illegitimate births for each class. It divides births according to sex and computes the proportion of stillbirths for each sex, together with the relative number of female births per 100 male births, in each city for each year.

(3) Infant mortality. Both absolute numbers and rates are given. This table concludes with a valuable summary of the requirements in the various countries as to reporting births, especially stillbirths. Wide differences are shown to exist (pp. 162-164).

(4) Mortality according to certain specified causes. Both absolute numbers and rates per 100,000 population are given. The specific diseases reported are: scarlatina, croup and diphtheria, whooping cough, typhoid, pulmonary tuberculosis, cancer, and puerperal fever.

A second volume is promised covering the vital statistics of cities outside of Europe in a similar manner.

ROBERT EMMET CHADDOCK.

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*Zuigelingensterfte in Nederland in Verband met de Uitkomsten van het Haagsche Onderzoek 1908-1909.* (The Hague. 1913. Pp. 20.)

### Social Problems and Reforms

*Constructive Rural Sociology.* By JOHN M. GILLETTE. (New York: Sturgis and Walton Company. 1913. Pp. xii, 301. \$1.60.)

By assembling current propositions and pretty well known facts Professor Gillette tries to meet the need for a constructive treatment of rural problems, mainly sociological, and succeeds very well considering that the field is a new one. The book will be useful to the student needing an outline text covering many

topics, to the general reader desiring a brief summary of suggestions and theories for the analysis and reconstruction of rural society, and it will be helpful to all because of the precise bibliography following each chapter.

The author first sets forth the types of rural communities and then seeks for the rural problem which he discovers to be "in reality a product of the intellectual faculties" due to the general progress of the world rather than to any degeneration of rural life and society. He does not define or isolate the rural problem but discusses various pertinent facts and conditions. He then devotes four chapters to the betterment of the economic side of agriculture and farm life, such as the improvement of production, the business side of farming, transportation and communication; more than half the book to the improvement of rural health, socialization of country life, and the reform of institutions and charities; and closes with an appeal for rural social surveys as one of the helpful methods of betterment.

This book is a good beginning for a broad subject which needs further amplification and detailed treatment. The author apparently bases much of his discussion upon Western rural conditions and frequently either ignores or dismisses with a paragraph the regions east of the Alleghenies, and the South. Some special economic and social features of the North Atlantic Division are not recognized. For instance, while rented farms have increased in nearly all divisions of the country, in New England the owned farms have gained in per cent. In the South, tenant farmers have increased greatly, but the causes and significance of this movement are vastly different from those of the same movement in the North Central Division. Deductions from the general United States statistics on this matter are very liable to be inapplicable to selected regions. Much that is said about farm machinery and equipment would not well apply to New England. The discussion of the effects of isolation of farm life, etc., is quite true of the large farm areas of the West, but hardly applies to the present Eastern conditions as a whole.

In chapter 4, Professor Gillette gives mechanical invention as the fundamental cause of the drift of population to the cities, making social and cultural forces "incidental." Is not the desire for social life, physical and intellectual stimulation, broad range of vocations, and opportunity for honor, the real dynamic which causes the movement to the cities, while mechanical invention is

an instrument which enables these great natural forces to become active? Man loves to live in the midst of human affairs and mechanisms enable him to do so; they are a means, not a dynamic cause. The church, the neighborhood house, the Y. M. C. A., the grange, and other betterment organizations need treatment and alignment in accordance with some definite ideal of rural society in specified regions, and under given conditions. Such a treatment will give us further, constructive progress.

ROBERT J. SPRAGUE.

*Massachusetts Agricultural College.*

*Economic Survey of Pittsburgh.* By J. T. HOLDSWORTH. (Pittsburgh: City Council. 1912. Pp. 229.)

In 1909 when the Pittsburgh survey was completed, that newly fashioned instrument for city advance was not altogether popular in some quarters of Pittsburgh, but sentiment had evidently changed by 1911. The city council in the latter year gave both its backing and funds for another survey, authorized "to investigate the economic and other conditions of the city affecting its industrial and commercial prosperity," and to submit the findings together with recommendations for industrial and commercial advance. These findings and recommendations are the subject-matter of this volume.

The investigation followed twelve main lines, the subjects dealt with being: the smoke problem, workingmen's homes, food costs, rents, wages, unemployment, cost of living, food production and distribution, recreation facilities, municipal taxation and administration, uneconomical use of land and municipal efficiency and economy.

Excepting the data on rents, and the facts on food prices and wages, but little new material is presented. In the fairly typical chapter on unemployment, for instance, the bulk of the material represents chiefly a general discussion of the problem and long quotations from at least five published reports, only one of them giving facts on the local situation. Again, the main support of the conclusion that Pittsburgh needs workmen's houses renting from \$12 to \$25 is the quotation to that effect from the Chamber of Commerce Committee on Housing Conditions. In most cases this kind of support for the conclusions and recommendations is convincing as argument, and is valuable as a compilation of existing data, but is inadequate as proof.

Moreover, at two important points (important because of the